

<draft termination letter>

<mail drop dates: 7/1/04 – 7/3/04>

<recipient list: 649,329 MDHS clients>

July 1, 2004

Dear Client:

This letter is to inform you that your benefits provided by the Mississippi Department of Human Services have been terminated as of July 1, 2004. The Mississippi Legislature did not reauthorize the existence of the Mississippi Department of Human Services during the 2004 Regular Legislative Session or during a recent special session called by Governor Haley Barbour to save the agency.

Mississippi's Attorney General says the Governor cannot run MDHS by executive order as has been previously done. This would have allowed our agency to survive and your benefits to continue. Governor Barbour is currently looking at all legal options available to continue your MDHS benefits.

The Mississippi Department of Human Services is greatly concerned about this matter and the implications for our clients like you. Until a solution is found, however, we have been forced to cease operations. We regret this disappointing news and will keep you apprised of any further developments.

Sincerely,

Don Taylor
Executive Director